

HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION 830
By Winningham

A RESOLUTION to honor the life and accomplishments of the late James E. May on the occasion of his induction into the Tennessee Secondary School Athletic Association Hall of Fame.

WHEREAS, the Tennessee General Assembly is pleased to specially honor and commend those citizens who, through unwavering dedication and unflagging commitment to excellence, have distinguished themselves as community leaders of whom we can all be proud; and

WHEREAS, one such noteworthy person is the late James E. May, who devoted nearly three decades to the education and instruction of young students and athletes in Tennessee; on March 18, 2006, Mr. May will be posthumously inducted into the Tennessee Secondary School Athletic Association (TSSAA) Hall of Fame, a recognition most befitting his outstanding service to Tennessee high schools and their students; and

WHEREAS, born in Clinton, Tennessee, Jim May graduated from Clinton High School, where he played football and basketball from 1955 until 1958; he attended the University of Tennessee, before earning a bachelor's degree from Carson-Newman College in 1968; and he received a master's degree from Middle Tennessee State University in 1973; and

WHEREAS, a true patriot, Mr. Jim May was a veteran of the United States Army, serving with courage and dignity in the combat zone of the Dominican Republic; and

WHEREAS, in 1969, Coach May commenced his illustrious, twenty-eight-year coaching career at Petersburg High School, where he coached football until the school closed in 1970, achieving a 6-2 overall record; and

WHEREAS, Coach May then moved to Cornersville High School, where he coached football for three seasons and amassed a total win-loss record of 23-10; the 1972 season culminated in a Duck River Conference Championship, a Mid-State Championship, and a State

Playoff appearance; the Cornersville football team also made Bowl appearances in 1970 and 1971; and

WHEREAS, continuing his career in Crossville, Alabama, between 1973 and 1980, Coach May achieved a total record of 49-33, including one Quarter Final State Playoff appearance; and

WHEREAS, Coach May returned to Tennessee in 1981 to coach football, basketball, and baseball at Oneida High School; under his skillful leadership, the Oneida Indians football team went to their first ever State Championship; and

WHEREAS, during his remarkable tenure, Coach May won twelve District or Regional Championships with an overall record of 218-100; and

WHEREAS, in the six seasons of play between 1981 and 1986, Coach May put up equally impressive numbers for the Oneida High School's girls varsity basketball team; the girls' squad amassed a 127-50 total win-loss record, winning more than 67 percent of their games; and

WHEREAS, thanks to his dedication and peerless coaching abilities, the girls' basketball team won numerous titles, including three District titles, three Regional titles, and three Sub-State wins in three appearances; and

WHEREAS, Coach May also coached the Oneida High School Baseball team in 1984, where he continued to display his trademark sense of humor and strength of character to players and colleagues alike, never allowing the seriousness of the job to overcome the fun of playing the game; and

WHEREAS, Jim May was named East Tennessee Coach of the Year in 1992, and he also served as President of the Tennessee Athletic Coaches Association (TACA) in 1992-93; and

WHEREAS, Coach May's superior knowledge and passionate love of sports was readily apparent, and he set high standards both on and off the field, believing it was his duty to ensure that each student reached his or her full potential; and

WHEREAS, Coach May passed away doing what he loved so much, working with young people and coaching football; he suffered a fatal heart attack during the second quarter of a

Region Football game in the fall of 1997; Coach May's team continued on with the same hard work, dedication, and positive values he had always inspired, finishing in the Sate Semi-Finals that year; and

WHEREAS, the significance of Jim May's sterling example cannot be adequately measured by winning seasons alone; he also served as a classroom teacher, Assistant Principal, and Athletic Director, and his positive impact on the lives of his students, athletes, colleagues, and fellow coaches still resounds in the community today; and

WHEREAS, his educational, athletic, and civic endeavors aside, Jim May always maintained the highest family values and was most grateful for the love and companionship he shared with his wife, Patty; two sons, James E. (Jimmy) May, Jr., and Richard May; and three grandchildren, Amanda, Brittany, and Dawson; and

WHEREAS, for the above accomplishments, his impeccable moral standards, and impressive work ethic, Jim May has been selected for induction into the TSSAA Hall of Fame; and

WHEREAS, Coach James E. May, as a man of true character and commitment, exemplified the type of selfless community leader and educator whom fellow Tennesseans admire for their tireless efforts to mold this State's youth, guiding them with solid principles and high standards, whether on the athletic field or in the classroom; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE HUNDRED FOURTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE SENATE CONCURRING, that we join in honoring the life and accomplishments of the late Coach James E. May on the occasion of his induction into the Tennessee Secondary School Athletic Association Hall of Fame, reflecting fondly upon his substantial legacy as an administrator, coach, and human being.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy.